

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 06813 121542Z

44

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 EUR-08 CIAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02

/035 W

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R 121200Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9254

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6813

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: GH, PINR, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: GHANIAN AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATIONS ON GHANAIAN
MILITARY REGIME.

1. COLONEL JUSHUA HAMIDU, GHANA'S AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL,
IS LEAVING DAKAR THIS MONTH TO SPEND A YEAR IN UK
AT ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENSE STUDIES. COL. HAMIDU,
WHO PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS HERE IN JULY, 1972,
IN FAREWELL CALL ON AMBASSADOR SAID HE TURNED DOWN
OFFER TO BE GHANA'S CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF, BUT THAT IN
INTEREST OF GHANAIAN UNITY HE MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT
POSITION WHEN HE FINISHES COURSE IN UK IN
DEC 75.

2. CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNDER DEPOSED PRIME
MINISTER BUSIA, HAMIDU HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACTS
WITH DIVERSE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS IN GHANA BOTH
IN AND OUTSIDE THE ACHEAMPONG GOVT. SEVERAL HAVE
MET WITH HIM IN DAKAR ENROUTE TO AND FROM THE UK OR THE
US. HE SEES MILITARY REGIME AS ONLY MEANS OF
MAINTAINING STABILITY IN CONTEMPORARY GHANA, BUT HAS
LITTLE RESPECT FOR ACHEAMPONG AS CHIEF OF STATE OR FOR
MOST OF HIS CLOSEST ADVISERS SUCH AS LT COL KWAME
BAAH, COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE DOES RESPECT
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AMBASSADOR KOJO DEBRAH, SECRETARY TO THE NATIONAL

REDEMPTION COUNCIL, BUT FEELS MAJOR CONFLICT AND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ACHEAMPONG AND DEBRAH UNAVOIDABLE. HAMIDU SEES ETHNIC ENMITIES GROWING AMONG GHANA'S MILITARY. REMOVAL OF ASHLEY-LARSEN AS CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF WILL ONLY CRYSTALLIZE EWE DISSENT. HAMIDU POINTED OUT THAT CHANGES IN CHIEFS OF DEFENSE STAFF IN GHANA HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN FOLLOWED BY COUPS.

3. WITH REGARD TO HIS OWN ULTIMATE AMBITION, HAMIDU SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED WITH THREE MORE YEARS IN THE MILITARY AFTER HIS UK COURSE. THEN HE WOULD RETIRE EITHER TO PRIVATE AGRI-BUSINESS OR OFFER TO ACCEPT A CHALLENGING DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT.

4. COMMENT: HAMIDU VOLUNTEERED ALL OF THE ABOVE OPINIONS WHICH HE REQUESTED BE CLOSELY GUARDED. HE HAS BEEN A COOPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY COLLEAGUE, WIDELY RESPECTED HERE FOR HIS INTEGRITY AND GRACIOUSNESS. HE HAD NO PRETENSIONS OF BEING A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT, AND IT WAS OFTEN CLEAR THAT HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH MATTERS AT HOME. HE LIKES THE US AND AMERICANS AND COULD BE A USEFUL FRIEND IN THE FUTURE.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAKAR06813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740361-0449
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741241/aaaabiuj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANIAN AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATIONS ON GHANAIAAN MILITARY REGIME.
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, PGOV, GH, (HAMIDU, JUSHUA)
To: ACCRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005